AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system that facilitates the interface of non-integrated applications, comprising:

a processor coupled to memory that retains:

an artifact provider that hosts artifacts of a first application, the artifacts include items of data the first application publicly exposes to other applications, each artifact is associated with an artifact type, the artifact type can be at least one of a source file, a defect, a requirement, a test result or a build; and

an artifact consumer that host artifacts of a second application, the artifact consumer further includes ~~that exposes~~ at least one reference~~, held by a second application~~ each of the at least one reference is associated with one referring artifact hosted by the second application and ~~,~~ ~~the reference~~ is a link to ~~at least one of the artifacts~~ one referenced artifact of the first application hosted by the artifact provider, the link further comprises a link type that describes a relationship between the referring artifact of the second application and the referenced artifact of the first application. ~~consumer and the artifact provider.~~

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, the link is a uniform resource identifier (URI).

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, the artifact provider and the artifact consumer are application program interfaces (APIs) that interface to the respective applications.

4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a linking component that links the reference with the corresponding artifact of the first application.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, the linking component is an artifact identifier held by the artifact consumer that points to an artifact.

6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 4, the ~~linking component~~ links is a binary link. ~~, and is associated with a referring artifact and a referenced artifact~~.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, at least one of the provider and the consumer is a tool or service.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, the artifact provider registers an artifact type for each artifact it provides, and registers a corresponding link type that each artifact can host.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a generic artifact provider (GAP) that interfaces to a tool to facilitate storing and exposing both artifacts and artifact links.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising a GAP adapter that provides an interface between the GAP and a non-integrated application.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a cache that stores the artifacts and associated artifact links.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a user interface that facilitates presenting inter-artifact references.

13. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the system of claim 1.

14-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, the link is an artifact identifier that is an immutable and uniquely constructed key.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a link manager that manages a cache by updating and purging cache contents.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, the artifact provider and artifact consumer are at least one of loosely coupled and tightly coupled.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a classifier that makes an inference based on parameters related to at least one of the artifact consumer, artifact provider, and non-integrated applications.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, the artifact provider creates and reveals a URI for at least one of loosely-coupled server-based interactions, loosely-coupled clients, caching, and tightly-coupled interactions that support artifact-specific functions by contract with a caller.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for facilitating an interface between non-integrated applications, the method comprising:

providing an artifact provider that communicates with a first non-integrated application;

exposing [[an]] a referenced artifact hosted by the first application ~~using~~ via the artifact provider, the artifact comprises an item of public data of the first application;

providing an artifact consumer that communicates with a second non-integrated application, the second application includes a referring artifact that is an item of public data of the second application ;

exposing a reference held by second application and the referring artifact associated with the reference ~~using~~ via the artifact consumer; and

linking the referring artifact to the referenced artifact via the reference ~~to the artifact with~~ that includes an artifact identifier of the referenced artifact.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising the acts of:

registering an artifact type for the referring artifact and the referenced artifact; and

registering a link type that the referring artifact and the reference artifact hosts.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising presenting dependency information of the referenced artifact to a user, the information including at least one of link type, artifact type, artifact name, and modification date.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, at least one of the artifact consumer ~~and~~ or artifact provider is a web service.

27. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising generating an artifact proxy that represents data stored in a non-integrated application.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, the referenced artifact and referring artifact [[is]] are representative of at least one of a source file, defect, requirement, test result, [[and]] or build.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, ~~the act of~~ linking ~~comprising~~ comprises creating a link between the referring artifact and the referenced artifact that includes a referring URI, a referenced URI, and a link type.

30. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising discovering which referring artifacts hold links to a specific referenced artifact.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising raising an event when the referenced artifact is at least one of created, deleted, and changed.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising providing external addressability for the referenced artifact by the artifact provider.

33. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising providing a generic API that is both an artifact provider and an artifact consumer.

34-37. (Cancelled)

38. (New) A computer-implemented system that facilitates data integration among one or more non-integrated applications in a development environment, comprising:

at least one processor, coupled to a memory, that executes the following computer-executable components:

an integration service in the development environment that includes one or more non-integrated applications that each comprise at least one artifact, the integration service comprises:

a first application and a second application that each include one or more artifacts, the one or more artifacts are items of data of the applications that are publicly exposed, the one or more artifacts include artifact types and unique artifact identifiers;

an artifact provider associated with the first application, the artifact provider that facilitates exposing at least a referenced artifact of the first application;

an artifact consumer associated with the second application, the artifact consumer that facilitates exposing at least a referring artifact of the second application and a reference associated with the referring artifact, the reference includes an artifact identifier corresponding to the referring artifact exposed by the artifact provider; and

a linking component that facilitates creation of a link between the referring artifact and the referenced artifact via the reference included in the artifact consumer, the link includes a link type that indicates a type of relationship between the referring artifact and the referenced artifact.